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Three 'Prominent' Cubans Executed; Accused of Espionage Work for CIA

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Three Cubans whose executions were announced Tuesday by the Castro regime were from the most prominent families in the Camaguey Province, exiles said here.

The three were identified in Cuban government announcement as Alberto Cesareo Fernandez Medrano, Manuel Paradelo Gomez and Marcelino Martinez Tapia.

The Cuban communique said they were executed by a firing squad as "members of the Central Intelligence Agency" carrying on espionage work inside the island.

Fernandez, an attorney, was active in national and international Lions' Club activities. Exiles said he had been a district governor twice.

Cuban Lions' Clubs in Exile met late Tuesday to pay tribute to him and denounce what they termed the "assassinations" of Fernandez and his to companions.

All three were about 45 years of age and "the persons of greatest prestige" in Camaguey, it was reported here.

Paradelo Gomez was said to be a small contractor active in civic affairs and a high-degree Mason. Martinez Tapia was a former Cuban congressman. The Cuban government claimed Martinez was a former member



Fernandez Medrano
... 'great prestige'

of RESCATE, a Cuban exile organization headed by Dr. Manuel (Tony) Varona. There was no confirmation here.

Execution of the three, announced Tuesday by Havana radio, took place Monday. It was believed they had been imprisoned from three to four months.

The executions brought to seven those publicly announced by Castro within the past week. Four were executed in Havana last week.

Their deaths came after a period of several months in which no firing squad executions had taken place.

In announcing the executions, the Cuban government charged Fernandez with using his Lions' Club position as a cover for his efforts to collect military, economic and political information

and "to make contact with other CIA agents in all provinces."

It claimed he had been recruited by the CIA in 1961 and received "special instructions" in Coral Gables before returning to Cuba in 1962.

Prison sentences for two other prominent Camaguey Cubans also were announced. They were Jorge Bermudez Combar and Manuel E. Zayas Bayan, whom the government claimed were "CIA men." Bayan is a former governor of the Province.

Meanwhile, there were exile reports that the Cuban government had separated all former Cuban Army career officers and enlisted men from other prisoners and placed them in special compounds in political jails across the island. There was no explanation of the action.

Havana radio made no mention of it.

A sharp step-up in "urgent" traffic on short-wave broadcasts between Cuban Red Cross stations was also noted by monitors here Tuesday, with coded messages being transmitted.

MORI/CDF